

BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Steven Meeks - President
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet - Vice President
Brian Piatek - Treasurer
Dorsay Dujon - Secretary
Sean Curley - Parliamentarian

BOARD

Jace Dawson - At Large Representative
John Ma - At Large Representative
Thomas Murray - At Large Representative
Kristyn Yancy - At Large Representative
Clint Simmons - Homeowner Representative
Phillip Wiley - Youth Representative
Connie Thomas - Community Interest Representative
Richard Williams - Business Representative
Vacant - Business Representative



West Adams Neighborhood Council

BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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West Adams Neighborhood Council
Meets Every Third Monday of the Month @
Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard
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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

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MINUTES – *Approved April 18, 2022* General Board Monthly Meeting Zoom Meeting online or by telephone February 28, 2022, 6:30 PM

1. Call to order and Roll Call

A meeting of the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) was held on February 28, 2022 over Zoom, Webinar 959 3661 2418.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Steven Meeks (President), who made welcoming remarks.

Mr. Piatek called the roll. There were seven (7) board members present at roll call (Mr. Meeks, Yolanda Davis-Overstreet (Vice-President), Brian Piatek (Treasurer), Dorsay Dujon (Secretary), John Ma, Thomas Murray, and Kristyn Yancy. Quorum is eight (8) and was not met. Clint Simmons, Richard Williams, Connie Thomas, Philip Wiley, and Jace Dawson were absent at roll call but arrived later. Sean Curley (Parliamentarian) was an excused absence.

2. Government Representatives

Kimani Black (kimani.black@lacity.org | (213) 473-7010), District Director (South-West Area) CD10, reported. La Brea Ave had been reopened following the repair of a water main that was 25-30 feet below the surface. A Hopics team had four times attempted to offer services to a homeless woman outside Vineyard Rec Center. The Department of Mental Health had determined she was not a danger to herself or to the community but was engaged in substance abuse, and so they were waiting for Public Health perform an additional onsite report. Calls had been received regarding a homeless encampment on Harcourt under the 10 Freeway. Inhabitants were service resistant, and they had previously dwelled at Hauser & Jefferson.

The Rancho Sports Complex was due to open in March or April.

Mr. Ma said individuals living at the encampment on Harcourt were interested in meeting with Hopics. Mr. Black invited Mr. Ma to email him and “Roger” to arrange for Hopics to come at a time that worked for them.

Herman Jones said he represented CA Assemblymember (D-54) Isaac Bryan’s office.

Clint Simmons and Richard Williams joined the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Connie Thomas joined soon after. Ten (10) members were now present. Quorum was met.

Mr. Jones said 1,500 to 2,000 constituent surveys had been collected the previous year and top issues were homelessness, education, redistricting of Council Districts 9 and 10, and housing.

More than 20 pieces of legislation were to be rolled out. Jones said his field area included Baldwin Hills, Leimert Park, Windsor Hills, and Chesterfield Square. The office could help with EDD cases. They were working on backlogged rent relief requests. Assemblymember Bryan had just been appointed elections chair in Sacramento.

3. **General Public Comment: non agenda items**

Tracy Weisert thanked Mr. Meeks and Ms. Davis-Overstreet for “Crenshaw Memories” the previous Tuesday. Megan Jamerson was a “great moderator.”

Dynasty Taylor said she was founder of Dynasty’s United Youth Foundation (DUYA), a 501(c)(3) focused on education, career, and mental health for individuals from 5 to 18. She said RVNC was a “long-term partner” for DUYA and a supporter for the previous 4 years. At their donor recognition ceremony on January 27, WANC had been presented with a plaque.

4. **Secretary’s report:** Discussion and possible action approval of December and January minutes

Mr. Piatek said December had already been approved. January draft minutes had not been submitted by the minutes writer. No action was taken.

5. **Monthly Expenditure Report:** Discussion and possible approval of January’s MER

Mr. Piatek presented. Ume Works was now being paid by check. All expenditures were standard expenses. He needed to speak with Mr. Ma and Ms. Davis-Overstreet regarding reimbursements rejected by the City. Promotional bags had not yet been ordered. A check payment to Gail Johnson had been cashed, and Ms. Davis-Overstreet had also reimbursed her. Mr. Meeks had requested a copy of the check to see if Ms. Johnson had cashed it or if someone had possibly forged her signature.

Coach Williams moved to approve the MER for January 2022. Mr. Murray seconded. The motion carried with all nine present voting in favor. Three were absent (Wiley, Dawson, Curley)

6. **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Octaviano Rios

Mr. Rios was not present. There was no report.

7. **Standing Committee, Ad-Hoc, City Liaison and NC Alliance Reports**

Mr. Meeks asked if another board member would chair the board meeting in Ms. Curley’s absence. There were no volunteers.

Ms. Thomas reported on the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC). She planned to attend the March 5th meeting and report to WANC.

Ms. Thomas reported on the February 9th Rules Committee meeting. She reported on proposed changes to the bylaws and to standing rules that had been discussed.

Mr. Meeks said there would be no questions during reports.

Ms. Thomas requested that the Rules Committee Report be placed on the next agenda.

Mr. Piatek said the Land Use Committee meeting had been attended by himself, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Meeks, and Mr. Murray. They discussed one builder’s plans and heard from another who would be at the next meeting to discuss and a multi-tenancy alcohol license being applied for at the facility at Hillcrest and Jefferson. Each member of the committee had been assigned “some

extra work” toward drafting a guide for developers regarding WANC expectations. Mr. Murray would be looking into a tenant assistance fund as well as My-LA-311.

Mr. Meeks said he did not attend the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) meeting but that he would be involved with them through the “Cool Blocks” program.

Meeks said the two Outreach Committee events the previous week had been recorded and had gone well. A planned meeting on urban renewal, displacement, and redlining had previously been approved and should be developed.

Ms. Dujon said the Ad Hoc Arts & Culture Committee was working on the WANC logo, which would be discussed later in the agenda.

Mr. Meeks said the Safety Committee had not met but would do so later in the week. He reminded the board that only four board members could take part in discussion [due to the Brown Act].

He said a special meeting would be needed to look at bylaws amendments or changes.

8. Presentation

There was none.

9. Old Business

A. Discussion and possible action on sending a letter on NC letterhead and or filing a CIS on Council File 21-1203 on the appointment of a CD10 voting member replacement on City Council

Mr. Meeks explained the issue—that City Council President Nury Martinez had appointed Herb Wesson to represent CD10 as a temporary voting member, and that an injunction to the appointment had been subsequently filed. He said WANC had the option of taking a position and that WANC could “name somebody or not.” Mr. Simmons did not believe a CIS was needed.

At this time (7:35 p.m.), Mr. Wiley was present. There were now eleven (11) board members present.

Mr. Wiley spoke in favor of filing a CIS. Ms. Davis-Overstreet agreed it was important to push an agenda to have representation.

Mr. Meeks said the board could support Mr. Wesson’s appointment.

Mr. Piatek moved to file a CIS on CF 21-1203 supporting the appointment of a CD10 voting member on a seat in the City Council. Coach Williams seconded.

Ms. Yancy spoke in support of the motion. She suggested including language requesting a special election; however, there was no motion to amend.

The motion carried with all 11 members present voting in favor. Two were absent (Curley, Dawson)

At this time (7:57 p.m.), Item 9.E was taken up.

B. Discussion on Board Member attendance at Monthly and Standing Committee Meetings scheduled and held as being Brown Act compliant and Board Member participation in NC programs/activities and required training

This item was taken up at 9:45 p.m. after 10.D.

Mr. Meeks said there were problems with board members missing meetings, not participating in committees, and not completing trainings. Members who missed three meetings would be receiving a letter in accordance with the Bylaws reminding them that after a 4th missed meeting, their seat would be vacated.

At this time (9:47 p.m.), Item 12 was taken up.

C. Discussion and possible action - NPG funding request from Eayikes not to exceed \$5000

This item was taken up at 8:43 p.m. after 9.F.

Mr. Ma recused based on his participation with EAYIKES and left the meeting.

There was no applicant present. Several members said it was important for applicants to be present.

Mr. Piatek explained the grant request was for packaged meals that the applicant brought to Showers of Hope. He shared the application on the screen.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet said there needed to be more clarity in terms of the “break-down”: how many meals would actually be given to people in West Adams beyond at the Shower of Hope. There was a need for a better count of unhoused in the WANC community and to be careful not to duplicate services.

In public comment, Tracy Weisert said in December, WANC gave them \$1,000 and 1070 meals were given specifically to West Adams. Mr. Yoon [the applicant] had attended two meetings to speak on the application. “How many hoops do these people have to jump through before we do something,” she asked.

Mr. Piatek said the applicant had provided a project completion report stating they had served 505 meals for \$1,000.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet said LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) stated there were 230 unhoused in the WANC community. She asked if \$1,500 was a more suitable grant amount. She suggested to postpone and look at amount and ask for specifics as to how they provide the data moving forward.

No action was taken.

At this time (8:55 p.m.), Item 10.B was taken up.

D. Discussion and possible action on formulation of a document/letter on NC letterhead to developers requesting a good faith effort for but not limited to local (WANC area) hire such as, laborers, contractors, materials/equipment procurement, crafts people, low costs start up space/business and NGO incubator’s, low cost/free meeting space, displaced resident applicants given first opportunity for low cost rental units

This item was not taken up.

E. Discussion and possible action on submitted logo design and using other designers

Krishna Patel of Empathy in Action shared her screen and showed logo designs.

Mr. Simmons said he would like to see the logos in the context of letterhead and showing the WANC mailing address.

In public comment, Marcia Jones said she would like to see skin tones in place of the colors used.

Mr. Piatek said \$836 of the \$2,500 budget had been spent.

Mr. Meeks said logo design should not be rushed into, and that he would have been supportive of using a designer who lived in the area.

Ms. Dujon said it had been a pleasure working with Ms. Patel. The designs were a “fresh new approach” and “inviting.” She opposed further delays. She said Patel was living outside of California due to the pandemic, but her company was based “here.” Ms. Patel said Abramson Architecture was the firm originally hired, and that she “stepped up” because of the board’s desire to move forward. Furthermore, the original conversation was about a logo, not a brand identity.

Mr. Ma moved “that we adopt this logo.” Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded.

Dr. Dawson was supportive of moving forward.

After further discussion, Mr. Ma revised his motion to “that we adopt the top left-most variation.”

After still more discussion, he retracted his motion without objection, and moved “to approve this logo design concept as presented.” Ms. Davis-Overstreet seconded. The motion carried with eight in favor (Davis-Overstreet, Dujon, Dawson, Ma, Murray, Thomas, Yancy, Williams). Three were opposed (Meeks, Simmons, Piatek).

It was agreed to include a screen shot in the minutes for reference:



F. Discussion and possible action on 4301 Jefferson - ZA 2020-5929 MCUP and ZA 2021-9961 MPA

The applicants were not present. No action was taken.

10. New business:

A. Discussion on any suggested Bylaw's amendments and Standing Rules

This item was taken up at 9:00 p.m. after 10.B.

There was discussion, but no motions.

Mr. Piatek requested the committee report be made available in print. He requested the existing standing rules in print. Mr. Meeks explained that the standing rules had been moved to a storage unit and were in boxes.

Ms. Thomas said she felt she was being attacked by Mr. Meeks and was just doing her job as committee chair. The standing rules should be on the WANC website, she argued. If standing rules did not exist, it would be unfair and inconsiderate to have anyone look through clutter in storage to find them. She said the board could go about creating standing rules for WANC.

Coach Williams requested that the Rules Committee send out proposed changes prior to the meeting.

Piatek said the board needed specific changes to vote on and to see them in advance.

Ms. Thomas offered to email each member with a copy of her report.

Mr. Meeks suggested that members obtain a copy of the Rules Committee meeting recording, and he suggested they attend the committee meeting and send in suggested changes.

There was discussion of a joint board/rules committee meeting.

At this time (9:17 p.m.), Item 10.E was taken up.

B. Discussion and possible action on designing and production/installation of street utility pole WANC banners, not to exceed \$10,000

This item was taken up at 8:56 p.m. after 9.C.

Mr. Meeks noted a City Council motion was needed for such a motion. \$10,000 would pay for about 30-35 banners in total, which was the production cost, not the design.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet said the board needed a price breakdown and then to decide on placement.

No action was taken.

At this time (8:59 p.m.), Item 10.A was taken up.

C. Discussion on details on how Board Member recusals work

This item was taken up at 9:24 p.m. after 10.E.

Mr. Meeks said to notify him first of any possible conflict of interest, then notify the City Attorney.

Ms. Thomas said the most important thing was that a member did not have to tell other people but did have to tell the City Attorney as soon as they were aware [of a conflict of interest].

No action was taken.

D. Discussion on the possibility exploring a change in name for the West Adams NC

There was discussion without consensus, and no action was taken.

At this time (9:45 p.m.), Item 9.B. was taken up.

E. Discussion and possible action on the selection of any of the two Board vacancies, Business and At Large Representatives

This item was taken up at 9:18 p.m. after 10.A.

Marcia Jones introduced herself [as a possible candidate], said she had tried to attend meetings, and had lived in the area on and off for more than 40 years.

Mr. Simmons said he wanted the opportunity to find out more.

Mr. Meeks expressed the need to “do work.” He confirmed Ms. Jones’ candidacy would be for the At Large position. He asked her to email the Executive Committee regarding her eligibility. She could contact Octaviano Rios (DONE) regarding the requirements.

Ms. Davis-Overstreet thanked Ms. Jones for her interest in being on the board. She spoke to the importance of leading by example, noting there were board members who were not active and not on committees and in many cases did not show up for all the meetings.

At this time (9:24 p.m.), Item 10.C was taken up.

11. Agenda setting: Future Monthly and or Special Meetings

No action was taken.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned after 9.B at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Conrad Starr.